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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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EXAMINER

LUGO, CARLOS

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3677

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.



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BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS
AND INTERFERENCES

Paper No. 26

Application Number: 09/393,482
Filing Date: September 10, 1999
Appellant(s): CHISNELL, JERRY H.

MAILED

APR 08 2003

GROUP 3600

Remy J. VanOphem
For Appellant

EXAMINER'S ANSWER

This is in response to the appeal brief filed on March 17, 2003.

(1) *Real Party in Interest*

A statement identifying the real party in interest is contained in the brief.

(2) *Related Appeals and Interferences*

A statement identifying the related appeals and interferences, which will directly affect or be directly affected by or have a bearing on the decision in the pending appeal is contained in the brief.

(3) *Status of Claims*

The statement of the status of the claims contained in the brief is correct.

- Claims 1-12 are pending in this application.
- Claims 6-10 are allowed.
- Claims 1-5, 11 and 12 are rejected.

(4) *Status of Amendments After Final*

The appellant's statement of the status of amendments after final rejection contained in the brief is correct.

(5) *Summary of Invention*

The summary of invention contained in the brief is correct.

(6) *Issues*

The appellant's statement of the issues in the brief is correct.

(7) Grouping of Claims

The rejection of claims 1-5,11 and 12 stand or fall together because appellant's brief does not include a statement that this grouping of claims does not stand or fall together and reasons in support thereof. See 37 CFR 1.192(c)(7).

(8) Claims Appealed

The copy of the appealed claims contained in the Appendix to the brief is correct.

(9) Prior Art of Record

5,387,016

Joseph et al.

2-1995

(10) Grounds of Rejection

The following ground(s) of rejection are applicable to the appealed claims:

- Claims 1-5,11 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b). This rejection is set forth in prior Office Action, Paper No. 20.

(11) Response to Argument

Regarding applicant's arguments that Joseph fails to disclose a reinforcing ring positioned within a predetermined longitudinal extent of at least one depression in the outer sleeve defining an area of peak crimp force (Page 7 Lines 2-5), Joseph discloses this limitation.

Joseph discloses a reinforcing ring (28) positioned within a predetermined longitudinal extent of at least one depression in the outer sleeve defining an area of peak crimp force (Figure 3). The fact that the reinforcing ring is beyond is not precluded by claim language.

As to applicant's arguments of that the meaning of the word "within" was not considered according to the definition given by the dictionary (Page 7 Lines 11-24), the definition was considered.

The definition of the word "within" is inside the bounds of a place or region. Joseph clearly illustrates that the reinforcing ring is inside those bounds of the place or region. The fact that the reinforcing ring is beyond is not precluded by claim language.

As to applicant's arguments that Joseph fails to disclose the limitation of "a reinforcing ring positioned within a predetermined longitudinal extent of at least one depression in the outer sleeve defining an area of peak crimp force" must be read in light of the limitation "at least one depression defining an area of crimp force" (Page 8 Line to Page 9 Line 2), Joseph discloses these limitations.

Joseph clearly illustrates in Figure 3 that the reinforcing ring is within the depression formed by crimping operation.

As to applicant's arguments regarding that the reinforcing ring does not provide localized support along the predetermined longitudinal extent defined by the area of peak (Page 8 Line 16 to Page 9 Line 15), Joseph discloses this limitation. In Column 4 Lines 37-47, Joseph discloses that the reinforcing ring (28) is press-fit into the internal diameter of the first end of the inner sleeve (16) in order to increase the structural rigidity.

As to applicant's arguments regarding the rejection under section 102(b) to claim 2 (Page 9 Line 16), Joseph discloses the invention as claimed in claim 2. Claim 2 recites that the reinforced hose coupling further comprises a flare at the second end of the

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inner sleeve. Joseph discloses a flare at the second end of the inner sleeve (Figures 4a-4e).

As to applicant's arguments regarding the rejection under section 102(b) to claim 3 (Page 10 Line 1), Joseph discloses the invention as claimed in claim 3. Claim 3 recites that the second end of the inner sleeve is received within a second coupling. The second coupling comprises a tubular body having an annular upset bead; a cage axially retained by the annular upset bead; and a spring disposed within the cage. The second end of the inner sleeve is retained between the cage and the spring. Joseph discloses and illustrates these limitations in Figure 5. Figure 5 illustrates the second end of the inner sleeve (20) received within a second coupling (14). The second coupling comprises a tubular body having an annular upset bead (58); a cage (42) axially retained by the annular upset bead; and a spring (60) disposed within the cage. The second end of the inner sleeve is retained between the cage and the spring.

As to applicant's arguments regarding the rejection under 102(b) to claim 4 (Page 10 Line 13), Joseph discloses the invention as claimed in claim 4. Claim 4 recites that the reinforcing ring is made of a rigid material. In Column 4 Lines 37-47, Joseph discloses that reinforcing ring (28) is made of a rigid material (steel alloy).

As to applicant's arguments regarding the rejection under 102(b) to claim 5 (Page 10 Line 22), Joseph discloses the invention as claimed in claim 5. Claim 5 recites that the reinforcing ring is made of steel. In Column 4 Lines 37-47, Joseph discloses that reinforcing ring (28) is made of a steel alloy.

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It is shown that Joseph meet all of the limitations in claims 1-5,11 and 12. For the above reasons, it is believed that the rejection to claims 1-5,11 and 12 should be sustained.

Respectfully submitted,

April 3, 2003

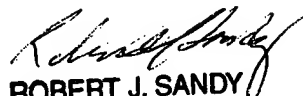
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